

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2020

CROSSROADS

Monthly Newsletter for:

CUSTER LUTHERAN FELLOWSHIP

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EXCEL IN THE GRACE OF GIVING!

Giving: an Obligation or Opportunity?

As the Apostle Paul traveled to churches, he collected offerings for the Christians in Jerusalem who were experiencing hard economic times. When Paul was speaking to the Corinthians, he used the Macedonian believers as an example of people who, in spite of their own economic troubles, gave joyfully to the people in Jerusalem. The Macedonians' love for Christ and their concern for their fellow believers moved them to give beyond their ability. They **excelled in the grace of giving**. The Macedonians gave themselves first to the Lord, and then, Paul said, they *"urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints"* (2 Corinthians 8:4). In Christ, they saw their giving as an opportunity to help other believers in need.

Does someone who views giving as an obligation plead for the opportunity to give? Probably not. When giving is an obligation, we will give, but giving as an obligation will not give us the joy or the attitude of pleading for the privilege to give as the Macedonians had. As God's people, we have both an obligation and an opportunity. Scripture is clear that we are called to give. Paul said, *"On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made"* (1 Corinthians 16:2).



Giving is an obligation, but, just as God changed the hearts and minds of the Macedonian people, he changes us so we view our giving as an opportunity rather than an obligation. As renewed and transformed people, our attitudes toward giving change from a "got to" to a "get to" attitude. We stop giving grudgingly, and we start to **excel in the grace of giving** by giving willingly and cheerfully. We want to give, because giving is an expression of our love and gratitude to God for who he is and what he does for us. The more we give of ourselves and our gifts the closer our relationship with Christ becomes and the more we want to give, and the more God blesses us, enabling our continued giving. *"You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God"* (2 Corinthians 9:11). We thank God that he fills us daily with his love so that we as members of his Body here at our church see giving as a privilege and an opportunity to praise and thank him.

In order to **excel in the grace of giving**, it is essential to be in God's Word. Pastor Pam will be offering three Bible Studies to go along with the theme each week during our Stewardship series. The Bible studies will be offered each Thursday at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. The themes will be:

"Why Christians Give" – Oct. 8th

"Outrageous Giving" – Oct. 15th

"Principles of Giving" – Oct. 22nd

If you are unable to attend the Bible Study after worship, Pastor Pam will also be posting a video for each study on the church Facebook Page and YouTube channel. Don't worry, though! She will not be recording the live class so your comments and discussions will not be posted online!

Please join Pastor Pam for these Bible Studies as we grow in our faith together.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM FOR 2020...



The Children's Christmas Program has been a part of CLF for many years, and it is such a joy to have our children participate in such a wonderful ministry. We are looking for someone to lead and coordinate the Christmas Program this year. Without someone to step up and fill this role, we will not be able to have a Christmas Program this year. Please contact Pastor Pam if you would like more information, or to volunteer to lead this important ministry this year.

TECHNOLOGY BRAINSTORMING!



Pastor Pam needs a few people to help brainstorm ways to make our online and social ministry presence more vibrant. We need to dream about what technology we need to be able to share God's love through our website and social media in ways we are unable to do so now. Please join Pastor Pam on Sunday, **October 4th at 11:00 AM** in the Fellowship Hall to brainstorm ideas. Snacks will be provided!

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

Pastor Pam will be offering First Communion class on Saturday, October 17th from 9:00am – 12:00pm for youth in 3rd Grade and older. They will then receive their first communion on Sunday, October 18th.



We will explore the meaning of Holy Communion, how it began, how it prepares us to live our faith every day, how to receive it with reverence, and also the amazing gift that it is. There will be short videos, a booklet for them to use and take home with them, lots of discussion, and some fun, too.

Please let the church office know by October 10th that your child will attend the class. And come with your children – you never know – you might learn something about Communion you don't already know! If you have questions please contact Pastor Pam.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING—NOVEMBER 1, 2020



On the recommendation of the SD Synod, the CLF Church Council is calling a Special Congregational Meeting to approve the addition of C10.08 to the CLF Constitution on **Sunday, November 1, 2020** after worship at approximately 11:00 AM.

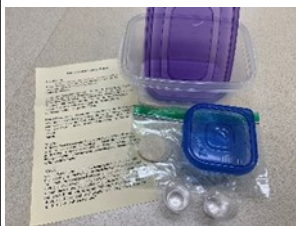
This action is recommended so that, if the situation arises that we need to hold an online Annual Congregational Meeting, we will be able to do so. Our current constitution does not have a provision allowing it. This is the Resolution that the congregation would need to approve:

Be it resolved that Custer Lutheran Fellowship amend the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions by addition of C10.08 of the Model Constitution for Congregations, stating:

C10.08: This congregation may hold meetings by remote communication, including electronically and by telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous and aural communication. To the extent permitted by state law, notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.

Please make every effort to be present for this Special Meeting so that we have a quorum to vote on this Resolution. Thank you!

COMMUNION KITS FOR HOME...



Holy Communion is such an important part of our faith journey, and I know many of us are missing it during this time of COVID-19, including me! We have begun celebrating Holy Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sunday's of the month, but for those who are not comfortable attending worship in person, Communion kits will be available on those Sunday afternoons at the church.

The kits have everything you need to have Communion at home. It has wafers, grape juice, disposable cups, and a sheet with the liturgy you can say alone, or with your family. **I do**

ask that you return the plastic containers some time after you use it so that they can be re-used. And if you do not feel comfortable coming to church to pick up a kit, let me know and I can drop one off for you.

I have always felt Holy Communion is so important in my faith life as a tangible reminder of God's love for me and for everyone. I am hoping we can all gain the comfort and hope revealed to us in this sacrament.

Excel in the Grace of Giving!



On Sundays October 4th, October 11th, and October 18th, our worship theme will be “Excel in the Grace of Giving.” I hope you will make every effort to be present on all three Sundays whether in person or online.



As your pastor, I hope and pray that the messages offered will help us in our journeys as faithful and generous stewards. By the power of the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament, we are molded and transformed into stewards who follow God’s ways and become more Christ-like in our

giving. As Christians, we are motivated to give by the gift of God’s grace through his son. With hearts filled with God’s love and grace, we can give faithfully.

Giving is our faith response to God’s gifts. God wants us to give willingly and cheerfully out of hearts filled with love and gratitude for our present and eternal lives. We also give out of obedience because God’s Word directs us to give. The Apostle Paul said, “*But just as you excel in everything ... in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us ... see that you also excel in this grace of giving*” (2 Corinthians 8:7). Just as Paul urged the people in Corinth to give, we are urged to “excel in this grace of giving.”

The themes of the Sunday morning Bible studies during these three weeks will be:

**“Why Christians Give”
“Outrageous Giving”
“Principles of Giving”**

Please bring your commitment forms to church on Commitment Sunday, **October 18, 2020** or return it to the church office as close to that date as you are able.

I also know that these last six months have been challenging for all of us, and for many of us it has been especially difficult financially. It has been challenging for the church as well. I ask that you prayerfully participate in these three worship services, as well as the online Bible Studies and consider how you are able to support CLF at this time. It is important that we receive these commitment forms, even if you are unable to contribute financially at this time, so that the Church Council may budget for 2021 appropriately.

May God bless and keep us in His peace and joy as we give to him!

Pastor Pam Power

PLEASE NOTIFY PASTOR PAM WHEN:

- ✦ There is a hospitalization in your family
- ✦ There is a death in your family
- ✦ You would like a pastoral visit
- ✦ There is a birth or adoption
- ✦ Someone becomes homebound
- ✦ Someone becomes unemployed
- ✦ There is a cause for sorrow or a cause for joy

Hospitals don’t notify the pastor that a member is in the hospital, even if they ask your church membership when you arrive. So please let the pastor know if you or a family member is in the hospital. Custer Lutheran Fellowship, the body of Christ, wants to bring you Christ’s love in all the seasons of your life.

Pastor Pam Power
701-955-5282 (cell)

pam_clf@gwtc.net
673-4691 (church)

"GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS SUNDAY!"

Thank you, thank you, thank you, to all of the many hands that helped with the GWOH efforts this year. This year's 7th Annual GWOHs event was a challenging one to say the least but was it worthwhile? Was it productive? Absolutely!

The big difference this year, in light of the COVID 19 issue, was that we conducted our efforts over multiple weeks rather than just the one-day Sunday. Here are the many activities that the Social Ministry & Evangelism Teams coordinated with the congregation's help:

- ✦ 20 Birthday Kits containing cake mix, frosting, candles, and other items for W.E.A.V.E. residents were assembled and delivered.
- ✦ Highway Cleanup was conducted on September 13. Seven hardy souls collected numerous bags of trash from the roadway for the two-mile stretch from the Custer State Park west entrance to the Dakota Greens Nursery.
- ✦ In the weeks leading up to September 13th and beyond, our CLF quilters focused their efforts toward making 25 quilts that will be donated to Lutheran World Relief.
- ✦ Several volunteers with green thumbs independently worked on weeding the Healing Garden at the Hospital.



- ✦ Congregants wrote many cards and letters to our military and nursing home community members. These cards were collected and blessed at the September 13th church service and mailed by the office.
- ✦ On Monday, September 14th, snack trays were purchased through Lynn's Dakota-Mart and delivered to staff at the Sheriff's Office, Monument Hospital, Custer County Courthouse, both school buildings, and the Custer City Office. Baskets of individually wrapped snacks were provided to Custer Search and Rescue, Custer Ambulance, and the Fire Department. Candy baskets were also provided to employees of Lynn's DakotaMart.



**God's work.
Our hands.**

While the world around us is much different in 2020, the generosity of our loving congregation remains steadfast.



Custer Lutheran Family—
"God's Work. Our Hands." On behalf of the CES Staff...
Thank you for the loads of goodies for us!
How thoughtful and KIND of you! Thank you for your support, kind words and for the treats!

Love, CES Staff &
Barb Paulson, Principal



CLF,
Thank you so much for the tray of cookies! It is perfect timing for our membership meeting this week! Who doesn't love cookies!
~ Custer Ambulance Service



To All at Custer Lutheran Fellowship,
Thank you for the delicious treats you brought to our staff. It is such a boost to our morale when we feel the support of our community!

~ Custer Jr/Sr High School Staff



PARISH NURSE NOTES

It's October already! Along with the fall season, besides raking leaves, is to get your flu shot! This year it is even more important than ever. Even though the flu shot doesn't cover the COVID-19 flu, it does cover a number of flus that have been determined to be most active this flu season. If you do feel ill and think it's the flu, a lab test can determine if you are positive for a number of flus. If the lab test shows a positive on the seasonal flu, there are effective treatments, if caught in time. The hope is also that the flu shot will reduce symptoms and decrease hospitalizations. Every year many people get very ill and die from the seasonal flu. During flu season, more people are indoors for much of the time. This increases the chance of getting the seasonal flu, and also unfortunately COVID-19. We all need to continue to take care of ourselves by eating well, getting exercise and using good health hygiene, including masks, hand washing and distancing ourselves. I think very often of the vulnerable people in our congregation. We all need to not only take care of ourselves, but also others in our family and our community.

Healthy body/ healthy soul... Mary Klein RN Parish Nurse



MENTAL HEALTH NEWS

Along with taking care of our bodies, it is equally important is to take care of our mood, stresses and anxiety, care you also need to do if you have a mental illness. How do we do this? To begin with some ways to do that are the same as above, a healthy diet and exercise. Many will try not to face these feelings or be embarrassed by them. We all have a mixed bag of feelings. Tuning into our feelings can take practice. One method is with "mindfulness". Being more aware of being in the moment. Study what is around you and focus on those senses and how they may affect our feelings. Another method is "meditation". Now you don't have to be a Dali Lama to achieve meditation. Again this also takes practice. You can get help with some new apps on your smart phone that will help you through it. Once you get the hang of it, you can use it in many situations, anywhere. Now, not all of us have smart phones, but cd's are available, which can be used at home. When you look at these practices, a common theme you can note is that these methods also reduce the amount of stress you experience. Stress is destructive to your body & mind. Please take care of your mental health along with your physical care. We can all rely on our faith, friends and family to get us through. *Healthy mind/ healthy soul...* Mary Klein RN Parish Nurse 673-4424





CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESSES..

If you would to e-mail someone in the church office, our e-mail addresses are:

Pam — pam_clf@gwtc.net
Main address— clf@gwtc.net
Sara — sara_clf@gwtc.net



OFFICE HOURS.....

The church office is open Monday to Thursday from 8:30 AM—4:00 PM. The office hours for individuals are as follows:

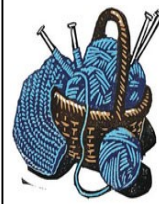
Sara: in office Tuesday afternoon & Wednesday

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

DEADLINE

Please have articles for the November Newsletter to the office by October 19th. Thank you!

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY...



If you have someone in your life who needs some extra comfort and prayers, please pick up a prayer shawl from the office. Everyone is welcome to do so at any time—just let someone in the office know when you do, as we keep a journal of all activity.

CLF WEBSITE OFFERS ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS...

On Custer Lutheran Fellowship's website, www.custerlutheran.com you will find the option to support Custer Lutheran Fellowship's mission and ministry through the "ONLINE GIVING" link. Whether you'd like to make a one-time donation or set-up regularly scheduled donations, you can do this easily through a secure server by following the instructions. At this time, CLF accepts bank account (ACH) transactions only. You can set up your own login/password and make changes with your giving at any time.



"CHRIST IN OUR HOME" DEVOTIONALS

The "Christ in Our Home" daily devotional booklet is issued quarterly by Augsburg Fortress. The **October to December issue** is here. We give thanks to W/ELCA for providing this devotional for your personal use.

If you would like an issue, you can stop by the office to pick one up, or contact the church office to have a copy mailed to you.

2020 BUDGET THRU AUGUST 31

	August 2020	Budget
Income		
Offering Contributions	216,880	231,935
Non-restricted Special Donation	7,056	1,444
Interest	373	0
Total Income	224,309	233,380
Expenses		
Pastoral Leadership	58,290	62,632
Worship	6,468	7,072
Education	3,349	7,475
Mission Support	27,425	27,298
Support/Care	99,519	135,881
Total Expenses	195,051	240,358
Net Ordinary Income	29,258	-6,978

RAPID CITY INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL

MEMORIAL WALK & CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL GROUNDBREAKING

WWW.REMEMBERINGTHECHILDREN.ORG

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2020



10:00 am: MEMORIAL WALK: Sioux Park flower garden to the field behind Canyon Lake Methodist Church & West Middle School

11:30 am: Remembering the Children * Wakáŋyeža
Wičhákiksuyapi - Future Memorial Groundbreaking

(Open field behind Canyon Lake Methodist Church & West Middle School) A special groundbreaking for a memorial to be built near the location of the unmarked graves.

BRING: Coats, blankets, folding chairs to sit during the groundbreaking (drop off at the Methodist Church lot before the

COVID PRECAUTIONS: Masks required, 6 ft. or group distancing, hand sanitizer

RAIN, SNOW, OR SHINE: As the children we are honoring also endured great hardship, with many passing away in winter while trying to escape.



DONATIONS FOR THE MEMORIAL ARE APPRECIATED AND CAN BE MADE AT: <http://bit.ly/MOA-RCISL-MEMORIAL>

WORSHIP & MUSIC NEWS...

As I begin putting the Fall music together, I have been thinking of the many people that have lost loved ones this past summer, including Bill and I losing his beloved sister. We know that tragedies and pain can strike any person and we need a craftsman to help put us back together. We can't make it through these times without God. He takes our sorrows and pains and knits them together into steadiness that we can endure anything with God. So we think of all of you and the changes we have had to make this past year.

We are getting ready for the fall months and I have received the format to be used on Wednesday nights and Sundays. We are in need of people that could help us with special music, or leading the hymns. Cozy and I will be the only pianists at this time but we hope that we can have a few more musicians help us. I am getting ready to select the hymns and special music for our worship. We have some very talented people in our church and so I will contact some of you and also the Worship Band people.

To help us get out and enjoy God's creation and clear our minds, Bill and I took a drive toward Newcastle last Sunday afternoon and visited a lake near Newcastle called LAK Lake Reservoir. It was a surprise lake with beautiful trees, bushes and foliage around it. Several bushes had so many colors that just made a glorious bouquet of beauty. God is amazing. We loved the way it was tucked in and gave us such a good feeling of appreciation of our God's creations. As you know, often times when we go out and about in our beautiful surroundings, I always hear music in my head. Sunday was no different. Tears always seem to flow from me when I look around. The music surged in my ears, truth seeped into my heart and my feelings of devotion overflowed with healing. We pray that music and faith can fill in the gaps of emotion and love that is needed to help Pastor Pam and our church survive these very different times.

This is what we will be doing for worship on Wednesdays in October:

- October 7 - Prayer around the cross
- October 14 - Holden Evening Prayer
- October 21 - Confirmation banquet and worship
- October 28 - Communion

Pastor Pam has sent me the formats for Sunday morning and so we will try to find some music people to help us offer their talents to enhance our services. I thank all of those that helped us this summer so often with their music and dedication. I want to thank Carol Torgerson who helped us with the piano music and is leaving for Arizona in about 2 weeks.

Thanks to God for all of you and pray for our congregation and Pastor Pam to continue to organize our services with all the changes that we have had to do this summer.

"God can heal a broken heart, but He has to have all the pieces". Unknown

"Kind words can be short and easy to speak but their echoes are truly endless" - Mother Teresa

"Our job is to take care of the possible and trust God with the impossible" - Ruth Graham

Our prayers are with all and God bless everyone.

Margaret Tretheway



Luna Fest is coming as it does each year; however, this year it was delayed from April until now. Beginning at 10 AM on Saturday, October 10th at The Custer Beacon, selected films by women and about women will be screened. From noon until 1 PM, a special forum will be held with Lillie Mendoza. Her topic for the forum: "Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women". This current heartbreaking situation has stories from many years in the past as well as current cases with a need to look to the future. Lillie is well-known and Zonta is appreciative of her efforts and willingness to travel to Custer for this event.

Luna Fest is sponsored annually by Zonta Club of the Southern Black Hills. One of the main supporters of this event each year is W.E.A.V.E. (Women Escaping A Violent Environment). And we at CLF are a main supporter of W.E.A.V.E. and their work in and for our community.

Other details:

The Custer Beacon is located at 3rd and Washington Streets in Custer. Tickets are \$10 for Adults and \$5 for students and can be purchased online or at the door. lunafest.org/screenings/custer-sd

RE-FORMED AND RE-SHAPED

Rev. Jonathan Steiner

"At the end of October, we will once again celebrate the Reformation. Centuries ago, Martin Luther led the movement to change how the church works. One major factor was that the church had made poor decisions in the midst of a pandemic, the Bubonic Plague. The church had made choices that strayed from the Gospel, and Martin Luther called them out on it. Through disagreements, violence, and schisms, the church was re-formed into something new.

Yet God was with them. The Gospel did not fail. It even grew more clear, and led to resurrection out of the death of the old.

Now that we are in our own pandemic, we have been reshaped once again. A new reformation is taking place around us, but also through us and our decisions. We will continue to be confronted with tough situations. We will find ourselves disagreeing with each other. We have already seen violence and brokenness.

Yet God is with us. The Gospel will not fail. This is our time to cling to the Gospel, to proclaim the love of Christ that will not go away.

This is an opportunity to invite people to find the peace and comfort of God's promises as the world around us shifts under our feet. Our call as Christians is to go into the mess of the world, and share the promise that God is with us. The Holy Spirit gives us the strength to do these things, and unites us with our neighbors to change the world, building a little bit of God's kingdom here and now.

We are being reformed. It is not easy. But God is still at work. Peace be with you!

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## CALLED TO LOVE AND SERVE

*Rev. Renee Splichal Larson*

You may not know this, but I read all of the newsletters that come into the Synod office. I get to read great devotions written by pastors, deacons, synod authorized ministers, and council presidents. I see noisy offerings to support ministry and local non-profits. I see participation in caring for our neighbors around the world through Lutheran World Relief. I see creative new ideas for Christian education for all ages ("take out" Vacation Bible School is just one example). I notice idea after idea of how "God's Work Our Hands" will be lived out in communities across our Synod during a global pandemic. People are worshipping in new ways via parking lots, computers, or separated by tape. Ministry is happening, my siblings in Christ, even and especially in this strange time.

Know what else I have seen in your newsletters? I see called pastors and deacons and church elected leaders doing the very best they can to make decisions that will preserve lives and sustain each congregation's ministry. No matter what decisions are made, not everyone will be happy. My sister-in-law, who happens to be a physician, said to me, "Five years from now we will know what we should have done." Nonetheless, there are decisions that have to be made in these days and they are far from easy. For sake of the Gospel, extend grace to your rostered ministers, your elected leaders, and one another.

As followers of Jesus, we are to model and live out what it means to be called into a community of faith that practices forgiveness and reconciliation daily. It is hard work to "live among God's faithful people!" We are set apart to be different. We are to not let the divisiveness that currently plagues our country and world divide the body of Christ, of which we are all baptized into. We are knit together by Jesus, who is greater than political allegiances, and yes, even a pandemic.

We are to love and trust God above all else, and love our neighbors as ourselves. This is the faith we live out each and every day no matter what is going on in and around us. Some wisdom for us from Proverbs 3:5: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

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FREE ONDEMAND PSYCHOLOGICAL FIRST AID TRAINING

In partnership with LSS, we've put together a free 30 minute training to provide you some resources to use to support our neighbors through difficult times. You can view the training online on the Synod's YouTube channel and website ([YouTube.com/sdsynod](https://www.youtube.com/sdsynod) or sdsynod.org/PFA).

Psychological First Aid (PFA) is an evidence-informed approach that is built on the concept of human resilience. PFA aims to reduce stress symptoms and assist in a healthy recovery following a traumatic event, natural disaster, public health emergency, or even a personal crisis. We encourage you to attend and share this information widely!



W/ELCA HAPPENINGS...

Next Meeting: Monday, October 26th @ 11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall

Hostesses: JoAnn Evans

Program: Review 2020 budget & make new budget for 2021

Discuss set up for the Craft Sale & Silent Auction to be held in November

Jamie Duprey was the speaker at our September meeting. Jamie is the author of "The Yellow Sports Bra". In the book, Jamie has written about her life in high school in a small town in Montana. She was on a Basketball team that won the state championship her senior year. She tells about life lessons and her Relationship with God. It was fun to listen to her small town memories and to think about how they compare with things that happen in our own town of Custer.

At our meeting we discussed having a Craft Sale and how that would look as we strive to follow rules regarding COVID-19. The Craft sale will be held after the worship service on **Sunday, November 15th**. The only food items will be jams and jellies. Craft items will include wash cloths, baby quilts, microwave bowl holders, a baby afghan and many other of your favorite items that are similar to those mentioned.

We will also have some silent auction items set up for your bidding pleasure during the month of November. Items will be available to look at and bid on starting Sunday, November 1st and will be available each Sunday in November. Bidding will end at 11:00 AM on Sunday, November 29th. Folks that have made the highest bid will be notified on Sunday afternoon if they are not present at 11:00.

The Craft Sale will be set up in the Fellowship Hall. There will be several tables scattered throughout the area. There will only be a few items on each table. Shoppers will be reminded to use social distancing while shopping and of course, masks will need to be worn.

Anyone who would like to donate to the Craft Sale or Silent Auction can do so by leaving items in the sewing room. Items can be dropped off between 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM on any Wednesday—Silent Auction items before November 1st and Craft Sale items before November 15th. Thank you for any support that you can give to this project. We look forward to the fellowship that it will bring! ~ Jackie

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**QUILTING**—We continue to gather on Tuesdays at 9 AM to quilt. This last week we put together 22 doggie/cat bags out of fabric scraps and pillow cases sewed together at the ends. They were delivered to the Custer Animal Center. All the quilts we finish in September will be sent to Lutheran World Relief. People are working at home putting fabric squares together, sewing and cutting out fabric. We received a large gift of fabric from a lady that said she can't quilt anymore. We are so thankful for all the gifts given us. We make good use of everything.

Please feel comfortable to come on Tuesdays if possible. We miss you all and are needing the fellowship!!!  
~ Ginny

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October—November Mission Project: The Storehouse

Canned food – meats, vegetables, fruits, soups

Spaghetti, pasta & sauce

Soaps – laundry, dish, body

Paper towels & toilet tissue

Cereals

Instant Potatoes

Peanut Butter

Macaroni & Cheese

Any other food items you'd like to bring



Ginny, EJ & Ladies:

Thank you very much for the pillows, comforters and duvets. They are going to work very well in our homes. Security and safety are very important for our foster youth. Blankets provide a sense of comfort. Thank you for your continued support of Abbott House.

~ Helen, Virginia & Eric

COUNCIL MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 15, 2020 MEETING

Treasurer's & Finance Committee's Reports—Joy's submitted reports reviewed the current statement of financial position and the offering trends. Currently, the giving levels are approximately 13% below budget. Expenditures are also down significantly. At this rate, the shortfall by the end of the year would be about \$37,339 below budget. Expenditures are 19% below budget. With the deferment of the \$10,000 parking lot chipping, there are adequate funds in the Capital Improvements budget available for the consideration of a new boiler in the classroom section of the building. Liz moved, it was seconded, and council approved the expenditure of \$5,975 for the replacement of a boiler. After discussion of the differences in the healthcare options for Pastor Pam, Jackie moved, it was seconded, and council approved the continuation of the Portico Gold Plan without the spouse being covered. (He has independent coverage.)

Unfinished Business:

- ✦ **Thrivent Choice**—\$1868 YTD
- ✦ **Amazon Smile**—\$238.41 YTD
- ✦ **Review in-person worship**—Council members were generally satisfied with the steady attendance of in person worship as well as the on-line attendance of Facebook and You-Tube. There was discussion about having a "Wellness Conversation" with members to determine the best ways to offer services. Pastor Pam and Laura will develop a questionnaire and, with council approval, those questions will be asked by council members of members.
- ✦ **"God's Work. Our Hands."**—Despite the needed changes related to the Covid-19 restrictions, GWOH was successful as numerous cards were written, the roadway was cleaned, WEAVE received Birthday Kits, and essential services people were given special recognition for their work.
- ✦ **Parsonage deck**—expenses are higher than originally anticipated so a new bid was requested with an email approval/disapproval process to ensue.

New Business:

- ✦ **Membership Changes**—No changes. No one has signed up for the new member classes.
- ✦ **Stewardship program/series**—Pastor Pam found a 3 week program that can start in the first week of October with commitment finale on October 18th.
- ✦ **Constitution Change**—Adding C10.08 to Constitution. This is a necessary requirement to ensure our congregation can use "remote communications" - such as electronically and telephone conference. Dave moved, it was seconded, and council approved having a special congregational meeting on November 1, 2020 to offer this amendment up for vote by the congregation.
- ✦ **Request from Juan Gabriel Angel**—Juan is a previous Outlaw Ranch counselor from Columbia. He is currently looking for funding for a campus ministry program in Spain. After discussion, council felt an appeal Sunday may be a possibility.
- ✦ **Request**—Scot moved, it was seconded, and council approved the usage of CLF for the Storehouse's Custer Community Christmas food baskets and Select-A-Gift program to be carried out on December 19th.

Reflections on Mission and Ministry—Pastor Pam is working on the Fall programs with the modifications as necessary for Covid-19. Confirmation will include confirmation with Distance Learning as well as in-person learning.

Committee & Ministry Team Reports:

- ✦ **Evangelism & Social Ministry Teams**—were happy with the GWOH projects
- ✦ **Property Committee**—assisted in the removal of the old parsonage deck. Paul Horsted has realigned the gutter to prevent further damage near the office.
- ✦ **Worship and Music**—With the start of Wednesday night services, various musical settings will once more be used.

The next Council Meeting is October 20, 2020 at 7:00 PM.

When a special event happens like our recent 50th Anniversary, gratitude is the overwhelming feeling and attitude that is the result. We want to express our heartfelt thanks for the many heartwarming messages we received. Some were calls, some were cards, some were emails or facebook notes, some were at the drive-by and able to congratulate us in person. We also know there were prayers offered on our behalf. **Thank you** to each one and every one who offered thoughts, messages or prayers. Please know we also prayed for you and whatever your connection was with us. May God continue to bless you as you bless others.

"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace." Numbers 6:24-26

~ Bob & Cozy Dorton

ELW DEVOTIONS FROM THE DAILY LECTIONARY

18 Pentecost

Thursday, October 1: Psalm 80:7-15; Jeremiah 2:14-22; Colossians 2:16-23
 Friday, October 2: Psalm 80:7-15; Jeremiah 2:23-37; Philippians 2:14-28; 3:1-4a
 Saturday, October 3: Psalm 80:7-15; Jeremiah 6:1-10; John 7:40-52
 Sunday, October 4: Psalm 80:7-15; Isaiah 5:1-7; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46
 Monday, October 5: Psalm 144; Ezekiel 19:10-14; 1 Peter 2:4-10
 Tuesday, October 6: Psalm 144; Isaiah 27:1-6; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21
 Wednesday, October 7: Psalm 144; Song of Solomon 8:5-14; John 11:45-57

19 Pentecost

Thursday, October 8: Psalm 23; Isaiah 22:1-8a; 1 Peter 5:1-5, 12-14
 Friday, October 9: Psalm 23; Isaiah 22:8b-14; James 4:4-10
 Saturday, October 10: Psalm 23; Isaiah 24:17-23; Mark 2:18-22
 Sunday, October 11: Psalm 23; Isaiah 25:1-9; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14
 Monday, October 12: Psalm 34; Exodus 19:7-20; Jude 17:25
 Tuesday, October 13: Psalm 34; Amos 9:5-15; Philippians 3:13—4:1
 Wednesday, October 14: Psalm 34; Song of Solomon 7:10—8:4; John 6:25-35

20 Pentecost

Thursday, October 15: Psalm 96:1-9[10-13]; Judges 17:1-6; 3 John 9-12
 Friday, October 16: Psalm 96:1-9[10-13]; Deuteronomy 17:14-20; 1 Peter 5:1-5
 Saturday, October 17: Psalm 96:1-9[10-13]; Isaiah 14:3-11; Matthew 14:1-12
 Sunday, October 18: Psalm 96:1-9[10-13]; Isaiah 45:1-7; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22
 Monday, October 19: Psalm 98; Daniel 3:1-18; Revelation 18:1-10, 19-20
 Tuesday, October 20: Psalm 98; Daniel 3:19-30; Revelation 18:21-24
 Wednesday, October 21: Psalm 98; Daniel 6:1-28; Matthew 17:22-27

Reformation Sunday

Thursday, October 22: Psalm 1; Numbers 5:5-10; Titus 1:5-16
 Friday, October 23: Psalm 1; Deuteronomy 9:25—10:5; Titus 2:7-8, 11-15
 Saturday, October 24: Psalm 1; Proverbs 24:23-34; John 5:39-47
 Sunday, October 25: Psalm 46; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36
 Monday, October 26: Psalm 119:41-48; Deuteronomy 6:1-9, 20-25; James 2:8-13
 Tuesday, October 27: Psalm 119:41-18; Deuteronomy 10:10-22; James 2:14-26
 Wednesday, October 28: Psalm 119:41-48; Proverbs 16:1-20; Matthew 19:16-22

22 Pentecost—All Saints Day

Thursday, October 29: Psalm 43; 1 Samuel 2:27-36; Romans 2:17-29
 Friday, October 30: Psalm 43; Ezekiel 13:1-16; 2 Peter 2:1-3
 Saturday, October 31: Psalm 43; Malachi 1:6—2:9; Matthew 23:13-28
 Sunday, November 1: Psalm 34:1-10, 22; Revelations 7:9-17; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12
 Monday, November 2: Psalm 5; Jeremiah 5:18-31; 1 Thessalonians 2:13-20
 Tuesday, November 3: Psalm 5; Lamentations 2:13-17; Acts 13:1-12
 Wednesday, November 4: Psalm 5; Proverbs 16:21-33; Matthew 15:1-9



MEALS ON WHEELS

For years, CLF has taken the responsibility for delivering Meals on Wheels on Fridays. We are now down to four volunteers and can really use some more! We will be happy to train you and show you the ropes if you can commit to one weekend a month! The recipients are always so appreciative, but more than that we are doing our Father's work and are always so very blessed for doing so! Please contact Mark Hogg or the church office if you know of anyone who can help. Thank you!!





Custer Lutheran Fellowship, ELCA
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Custer Lutheran Fellowship

Our Mission ... is to plant the word of God, nurture growth in children and adults, and scatter the seeds of joy and faith in a diverse community.

We envision Custer Lutheran Fellowship to be like the Black Hills themselves, an inviting community in which God's Spirit blows through people – like wind through the pine – life that is forever new! God's spirit inspires us to be:

A **worshipping** community, hearing the life-giving Word of God receiving Christ's very presence in the Sacraments, and raising our voices in joyful songs of praise and prayer;

A **growing** community, with building and grounds spacious enough for all;

An **intergenerational** community, nurturing children and youth, young adults, people in mid-life, and older people as one family of God;

A **learning** community, in which people of all ages take advantage of multiple opportunities to deepen their understanding of the grace and justice of God;

A **giving** community, generously offering our time, talent and treasure to support each other and share in Christ's ministry;

A **serving** community, reaching beyond ourselves to stand with the poor, the sick, the hungry and the oppressed;

A **witnessing** community, eager to share with everyone the joy we have received from Christ.

***We believe in the Cross and
our risen Lord and
that through Christ
we have eternal life***

Our Bedrock Beliefs are...

We grow in faith through worship and sacraments

The Word of God is our hope, Support comes from within our family of believers who see and serve Jesus in others

Through prayer we evoke God's love and power as the Spirit intercedes for us "with sighs too deep for words to express"

In crisis God is our strength. He is all loving and accepting and He helps us through these times.

We have faith only through God's grace.

Our Core Values are:

*Faith, Family, Mission,
Service, Worship*



Ministering at Custer Lutheran Fellowship

Pastor: Pamela Power
Office Manager: Mary Stutz
Office Assistant: Sara Janson
Parish Nurse: Mary Klein
Custodian: Augie Heyne
Music: Margaret Tretheway
Choir Director: Marlene Sellevoid
Financial Secretary: Ann Snow
Treasurer: Joy Smolnisky
SPARK Kids: Wendi Rusch

Ministers: All Members of CLF!